



Speech by

Hon. PETER BEATTIE

MEMBER FOR BRISBANE CENTRAL

Hansard Thursday, 6 September 2007

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Rugby League World Cup

Hon. PD BEATTIE (Brisbane Central—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.38 am): I know we are all taking an interest in the Rugby League finals but I want to highlight what will happen next year because it will be an even better year. Not only will Skilled Park on the Gold Coast open; we will also play host to the 2008 Rugby League World Cup final as well as five premium games in the tournament. I am pleased to announce today that Queensland has secured an additional sixth match. Our own Kangaroos will take on PNG at Dairy Farmers Stadium in Townsville on 9 November.

This is the second match which has been confirmed for Townsville. The other will feature England versus PNG on 25 October. For north Queensland this means a Rugby League bonanza with the Australian match expected to be a sell-out and the arrival of many English tourists who are following their team around the country. Fans will come to the games, stay for a holiday and enjoy the sights of north Queensland while spending their hard-earned pounds. North Queensland is again on the international Rugby League map.

It is an exciting time for rugby league fans.

The NRL finals kick-off this weekend and I am sure we will all be cheering on the Cowboys and the Broncos in their quest for the Grand Final.

It has been a great year for all the Queensland teams and I especially want to acknowledge the terrific effort of the Gold Coast Titans in their debut season.

For North Queensland this means a Rugby League bonanza with the Australian match expected to be a sell out and the arrival of many English tourists who are following their team around the country.

Fans will come for the game, stay for a holiday and enjoy the sights of North Queensland while spending their hard earned pounds.

It will mean jobs and a business bonanza in accommodation, business services, transport, retail and trade sectors.

That is not to mention the fact that it will be seen by millions of television viewers around the world.

I commend the Rugby League International Federation on this sensible decision.

We are obviously not the only ones that think Queensland has the best venues and best fans in the world.